

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8355

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SO, UR, US, XF

SUBJECT: KUWAITI MAGAZINE INTERVIEW OF SOMALI
PRESIDENT

REF: MOGADISCIO 1047 (NOTAL)

1. KUWAITI MAGAZINE AL-YAKADA (JUNE 27) HAS LENGTHY
INTERVIEW WITH PRES. OF SOMALIA, MOHAMMED SIAD BARRE. AS
REQUESTED REFTEL, OUR TRANSLATION OF APPARENTLY SUBSTANTIVE
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PARTS OF INTERVIEW FOLLOWS. (XEROX OF ARABIC VERSION
POUCHED TO MOGADISCIO AND DEPARTMENT.) EMBASSY MOGADISCIO
MAY WISH TO PROVIDE SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS OR COMMENT
TO OTHER ADDRESSEES.

2. BEGIN TEXT. IN SOMALIA WE HAVE 15 MILLION HECTARES
OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS, BUT UNTIL NOW WE DO NOT

EXPLOIT WHAT WE HOPE AND WHAT WE REQUIRE. SOMALIA IS A RICH COUNTRY AND CAN GIVE MUCH PERMANENTLY TO ITS ARAB BROTHERS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE. IN THE OCTOBER WAR, AFTER THE USE OF THE OIL WEAPON, THE US HINTED THAT IT WOULD USE THE EMBARGO OF FOODSTUFFS AGAINST THE ARABS IN REVENGE. WHY THEN SHOULD WE REMAIN DEPENDENT ON THESE PEOPLE AND FORGET THAT THE COUNTRY OF OURS CAN ENSURE PROSPERITY AND AGRICULTURAL FOODS?

Q: YOU INDICATED IN A PREVIOUS TALK THAT SOMALIA REJECTED THE IDEA OF A FEDERATION THAT WOULD INCLUDE ADEN, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. THAT TALK TOOK PLACE DURING THE MEETING IN ADEN IN THE PRESENCE OF PRIME MINISTER CASTRO. WHAT ARE THE REASONS THAT LED TO YOUR REJECTION OF THAT IDEA WHEN SOMALIA ITSELF HAS PROPOSED THE SAME IDEA TO ETHIOPIA BEFORE?

A: FIRST OF ALL, I DID NOT REFER BEFORE TO THE IDEA OF A FEDERAL UNION AS PROPOSED TO US IN ADEN. THIS IS A CONCOCTION BY SOME PEOPLE. THE MEETING THAT WAS PREPARED BY CASTRO WAS AIMED ONLY AT THE MEDIATION BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. IT FAILED BECAUSE ETHIOPIA REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED WEST OF SOMALIA. I WANT TO INDICATE THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER SUBJECT AT ALL DURING THE MEETING IN ADEN.

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE ARAB
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COUNTRIES BORDERING THE (RED) SEA WOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW UP A COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY STRATEGY THAT WOULD SEPARATE IT FROM THE DANGERS SURROUNDING IT?

A: THIS STRATEGY REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION. TO DRAW UP SUCH A SECURITY STRATEGY IS PRIMARILY SUBJECT TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. SOMALIA CALLS FOR KEEPING THE RED SEA A SEA OF SECURITY AND STABILITY AND OPEN TO THE WHOLE WORLD, AND IT IS NECESSARY THAT IT SHOULD BE KEPT AWAY FROM ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES. MOST OF THE OIL GOES OUT FROM THAT VITAL OUTLET, AND WORLD EXPORTS ARE ENTERING THE AREA THROUGH THAT OUTLET. WE WANT IT AWAY FROM TENSION AND REVOLUTIONS. OTHERWISE WE SHALL NOT BE THE ONLY ONES WHO WILL BE HARMED, BUT ALL THE WORLD ALSO. THEREFORE WE OBJECT TO SETTING UP MILITARY BASES AND ANY OTHER THINGS THAT WOULD ABUSE THE USE OF THIS WATER PASSAGE. THIS APPLIES ALSO TO THE INDIAN OCEAN.

Q: DO YOU CONSIDER THAT THE RED SEA IS AN AREA OF TENSION AT THE PRESENT TIME?

A: OF COURSE, TENSION OBVIOUSLY EXISTS IN THE AREA. THERE IS THE ERITREAN ISSUE AND THERE IS

THE SOMALIAN ISSUE, WHOSE TERRITORIES ARE OCCUPIED
BY ETHIOPIA, IN ADDITION TO THE TENSIONS AND
PROBLEMS INSIDE THAT STATE. ALL THESE FACTORS
ARE EFFECTIVE AND THE ARABS HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE
BUT TO CONSULT AND COORDINATE IN THAT RESPECT.

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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

Q: WHILE TALKING ABOUT THE RED SEA, DO YOU BELIEVE
THAT THE ERITREANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE CONFERENCES THAT DISCUSS THE SUBJECT?

A: THE ERITREANS ARE AN OPPRESSED PEOPLE, SUBJECT
TO IMPERIALISM AND MUST ENJOY SELF-DETERMINATION.
THE UNITED NATIONS HAS COMMITTED A MISTAKE AGAINST
IT, WITH THE SUPPORT OF IMPERIALISM, WHICH IS AN
UGLY CRIME UNACCEPTABLE BY ANY CONSCIENCE. THEY

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ARE FIGHTING TODAY FOR INDEPENDENCE AND I FEEL THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO REACH THAT GOAL. AT THE SAME TIME THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCES WHICH WILL DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF THE RED SEA...

Q: IS SOMALIA WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN CREATING AN ARAB NAVAL FLEET THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE SUDAN, EGYPT, SAUDI AND THE TWO YEMENS TO ENSURE THE ARAB STRATEGY IN THE RED SEA?

A: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS IS POSSIBLE AT THE PRESENT TIME. MILITARY COORDINATION AND MILITARY UNION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED AFTER POLITICAL COORDINATION AND AGREEMENT, AND THIS DOES NOT EXIST NOW. PERHAPS THE DESIRED PURPOSE CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE ARAB LEAGUE. I AM OF THE OPINION THAT THESE LITTLE MILITARY BLOCS AND PACTS WILL NOT SERVE OUR PURPOSE. IF THE ARABS DO CARE ABOUT THE COUNTRIES OF THE RED SEA, THE ARAB LEAGUE CAN MAKE AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT DEFENSE CAPABILITIES FOR US AND FOR THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.

Q: BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, WILL SOMALIA BE WILLING TO UNIFY (ENTER INTO A UNITY) WITH ANY ARAB COUNTRY IN THE AREA?

A: WHY SHOULD WE OBJECT? WE ARE WILLING AND WE HAVE ALWAYS CALLED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ARAB UNITY.

Q: HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE PRESENT RELATIONS BETWEEN MOGADISCIO AND RIYADH? WOULD THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA BE ABLE TO EXERCISE AN OUTSTANDING ROLE IN THE SECURITY OF THE RED SEA?

A: OUR RELATIONS WITH THE KINGDOM ARE VERY GOOD. I BELIEVE THAT IT HAS AN OUTSTANDING AND EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE RED SEA, BUT IN ORDER FOR THIS ROLE
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TO BE ACCOMPLISHED IT SHOULD BE BASED ON A CLEAR AND FIRM POLICY.

Q: WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL DANGERS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ISRAEL IN THE AREA? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IT (ETHIOPIA) MIGHT TAKE A STUPID ACTION AGAINST SAUDI OR OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF THAT COORDINATION AND COOPERATION?

A: THE RIME IN ADDIS ABABA IS CHARACTERIZED BY RECKLESSNESS AND STUPIDITY. IT IS VERY POSSIBLE

THAT IT MIGHT COMMIT STUPIDITY AGAINST SAUDI OR OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, AIMING AT THE OIL WELLS. ETHIOPIA NOW HAS FIRM AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE JEWS. ITS EXPERTS ARE ZIONISTS; THE OFFICER AND MILITARY TRAINING CENTERS ARE ZIONIST. LET US ASK OURSELVES -- WHY DID THIS REGIME WHICH CLAIMS PROGRESSIVENESS SEVER ITS RELATIONS WITH AMERICA AND MAINTAIN THEM WITH ISRAEL. THE ONLY ANSWER IS THAT THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME HAS AN INTENTION TO BE HOSTILE TO THE ARABS AND FRIENDLY WITH ISRAEL, THE TRADITIONAL ENEMY.

Q: DOES THE SOVIET UNION AGREE WITH YOU IN THE EFFORTS TO LIBERATE THE OCCUPIED WEST OF SOMALIA FROM ETHIOPIA?

A: OUR RELATIONS ARE GOOD. THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS IN THESE RELATIONS. THEY LOOK AT ETHIOPIA THROUGH AN EYE DIFFERENT FROM OURS. WE FEEL THAT ETHIOPIA IS A REGIME BASED ON VIOLENCE, RECKLESSNESS AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IT LACKS POLITICAL MATURITY, ITS LEADERS ADHERE TO VIOLENCE AND BLOOD AND TO PLAYING WITH BOTTLES FULL OF BLOOD, AND KILLING STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND WORKERS. WE CONSIDER THEM ALSO WORSE THAN THE FASCISTS. THIS IS WHAT WE SEE IN ETHIOPIA. AS FOR THE SOVIET UNION, IT HAS ANOTHER VISION. IT BELIEVES THAT THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME IS PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST. THEREFORE THIS IS A DIFFERENCE IN THE VISION BETWEEN US

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AND WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CHANGE OUR VIEW SINCE WE CONSIDER THAT THE PRESENT REGIME DOES NOT DIFFER FROM THE FORMER REGIME IN OPPOSING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE SOMALIAN AND ERITREAN PEOPLES. WHEN WE ATTACK THE WHITE IMPERIALISM, WE DO NOT MEAN THAT WE ACCEPT BACK IMPERIALISM. BOTH ARE ALIKE. WE CALL FOR GIVING THESE PEOPLE THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8357
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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Q: DOES THE SOVIET UNION OPPOSE THE IDEA OF THE
LIBERATION OF WEST SOMALIA?

A: WHAT I HAVE SAID IS CLEAR AND ENOUGH. WE INSIST
ON AND WE CALL FOR THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION
FOR THE PEOPLE OF WEST SOMALIA. ANYONE WHO STANDS
IN THE WAY OF THAT DEMAND AND OPPOSES IT MEANS
THAT THERE IS A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN US AND HIM.

Q: THE STATEMENT WHICH WAS ISSUED IN MOSCOW
FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF MENGISTO (THE PRESIDENT OF
ETHIOPIA) INDICATED THE SO-CALLED HOLY BORDERS OF
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ETHIOPIA. DID YOU REPORT YOUR OBJECTION TO THE
SOVIET UNION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SUDANESE (SIC)
GUARANTEE FOR THE ETHIOPIAN BORDERS, WHICH ALL AGREE
ARE ARTIFICIAL IN ERITREA AND WEST SOMALIA?

A: WE ARE FREE IN OUR POLICY AND SO IS THE SOVIET
UNION. WE HAVE OUR CONVICTIONS WHICH WE WILL NOT
GIVE UP BECAUSE THE OTHERS REJECT THEM...

Q: TO WHAT EXTENT WILL YOU KEEP SILENT ABOUT THE
SOVIET SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ETHIOPIA?

A: IF IT APPEARS TO US THAT THESE ARMS COMING FROM
THE SOVIET UNION TO ETHIOPIA THREATEN OUR FREEDOM,
AND WHEN THIS MATTER REACHES THAT SITUATION, WE SHALL
TAKE AN HISTORICAL DECISION AND WE SHALL NOT BE

ABLE TO STAND WITH OUR ARMS FOLDED BEFORE SUCH A DANGER.

Q: HAVE THE SOVIET WEAPONS SHIPMENTS TO YOU STOPPED?

A: NO, THEY HAVE NOT STOPPED.

Q: I HAVE INFORMATION THAT THE SOMALI PRESS CONDEMNED THE LIBYAN ATTITUDE AND SAID THAT TRIPOLI IS TENDING TOWARDS SUPPORT FOR THE MENGISTO REGIME WITH ARMS. HAVE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN YOU AND LIBYA BECOME WORSE SINCE THE NEWS OF THE LIBYAN SUPPORT TO ETHIOPIA?

A: WE ARE VERY SORRY ABOUT THE LIBYAN ATTITUDE AND WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT AN HONORABLE ATTITUDE. I BELIEVE THAT LIBYA'S STAND BY THE SIDE OF IMPERIALISM AND FASCISM IN ETHIOPIA IS A CRIME AGAINST THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE LIBYAN BROTHERS. THE MONEY AND WEAPONS OF LIBYA ARE USED TODAY TO KILL THE MOSLEMS AND ARABS IN WEST SOMALIA AND ERITREA. WE ARE VERY SORRY ABOUT THAT ATTITUDE. WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP SILENT BUT MATTERS DEVELOPED UNTIL THEY BECAME A CLEAR DANGER AGAINST US. A FEW DAYS UNCLASSIFIED

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AGO WE SENT A NOTE TO THEM TO RECONSIDER THEIR ATTITUDE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THE MINISTER WHO CARRIED THE NOTE WAS NOT RECEIVED BY BROTHER QADDAFI, AND HE RETURNED THE NOTE TO HIM AND DID NOT RECEIVE IT. THIS CONDUCT IS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL RULES AND CUSTOMS. HE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A BROTHER AND FROM A PRESIDENT AND HE SHOULD HAVE DEBATED WITH HIM ON ITS CONTENTS. BUT HE REJECTED IT AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS POSITION IS CHARACTERIZED BY WEAKNESS. WE DO NOT WANT TO CREATE PROBLEMS WITH LIBYA AT ANY TIME. I CAN ONLY REPEAT MY REGRET ABOUT THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF LIBYA.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, HOW DO YOU FIND THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONS OF SOMALIA WITH THE RED SEA AREA, ARAB GULF AREA AND THE COUNTRIES OF THAT AREA?

A: I SAY CLEARLY THAT IS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH. ANY DANGERS THAT SURROUND THE ARAB GULF AREA WILL BE AT THE SAME TIME DIRECTED AGAINST US HERE IN SOMALIA AND THE AREA OF THE AFRICAN HORN, AND ANY DANGERS WE FACE HERE WILL BE DANGERS DIRECTED AGAINST OUR BROTHERS IN THE ARAB GULF...I HOPE THAT OUR BROTHERS THERE UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE THEIR STRATEGIC DEPTH AND THEY ARE REQUIRED TO TURN (THEIR ATTENTION) TO THIS AREA MORE SERIOUSLY AND WITH MORE CONCERN.

Q: IRAN HAS EXPRESSED ITS WISH TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE RED SEA AREA. IS SOMALIA WILLING TO RESPOND TO IRAN'S OFFER

AND WHY?

A: IF THIS OFFER IS PRESENTED IN A COLLECTIVE WAY
WE SHALL ACCEPT IT BECAUSE WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO
ACCOMPLISH STABILITY IN THE AREA. THE MOVE OF IRAN
INDICATES ITS INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS
THAT ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE AREA.

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Q: MR. PRESIDENT, HOW CAN WE RECONCILE THE
EFFORTS BEING EXERTED BY SOMALIA IN SUPPORT
OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF DJIBOUTI
WITH THE NATIONAL SOMALIA DREAM OF RESTORING THAT
PART TO THE SOMALI FATHERLAND?
A: THE INTEGRITY OF SOMALI TERRITORY IS NOT A DREAM..
THE PEOPLE IN DJIBOUTI ARE SOMALI. IMPERIALISM IN
THE PAST SEIZED IT WITH A VIEW TO PREVENTING THE
RISE OF A UNIFIED ISLAMIC ARAB SOMALIA THAT WOULD
PLAY A GREAT ROLE IN SPREADING ISLAM IN AFRICA...

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KENYA TOOK A PART, ETHIOPIA TOOK ANOTHER PART, THE ITALIANS TOOK A THIRD, BRITAIN TOOK A FOURTH AND THE FRENCH TOOK DJIBOUTI. WE IN FACT STRUGGLED FOR THE FREEDOM OF DJIBOUTI. BY THE WAY, THE NAME IS AN INVENTION OF IMPERIALISM, AS IS THE CASE OF THE NAME AFARS AND ISAS. THESE ARE NAMES THAT HAVE NO SCIENTIFIC OR HISTORICAL MEANING. THEY ARE CLEARLY NAMES WITH INTENTIONS THAT SERVE THE PURPOSES OF IMPERIALISM. THEY ARE INSEPARABLE PARTS OF SOMALIA. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DID NOT FIND ANY ONE OF THE ARAB BROTHERS TO SUPPORT US, AND UNFORTUNATELY THE ARAB STATES SUPPORTED THE SEPARATION OF DJIBOUTI FROM SOMALIA AND ITS INDEPENDENCE INSTEAD OF DEMANDING ITS RESTORATION TO SOMALIA. THIS IS AN IDEA WITH DEEP ROOTED AIMS. WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE, AND IN THE FUTURE THE PEOPLE WILL DECIDE AND CHOOSE. NO DOUBT THEY ARE GENUINE NOBLE SOMALI PEOPLE, AND THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE TO JOIN US.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, HOW IS THE SITUATION OF THE BORDERS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA?

A: ETHIOPIA HAS MASSED TROOPS ON OUR BORDERS. OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RECKLESSNESS AND INSANITY OF THE ETHIOPIAN RULERS MAKE US BLOW A WARNING ALARM TO ALL OF THE ARABS, AND ANY DANGER WHICH SOMALIA WILL BE EXPOSED TO WILL BE REFLECTED DIRECTLY AGAINST ALL OF THE ARABS. SOMLIA IS FACING FIERCE STRATEGY AND CONCEALED AIMS. ALL THE SPEARS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST US AND THE ARABS ARE SLEEPING. I AM AFRAID THAT THE ARABS WILL NOT FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT (AND WHEN THEY DO) IT WILL BE TOO LATE BECAUSE THEY WILL BE BUSY

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CRYING FOR US. AT ANY RATE WE WILL FACE DEATH HEAD ON AND NOT IN RETREAT. THROUGH THIS MEETING, I APPEAL TO OUR ARAB BROTHERS AND WARN THEM AGAINST THE PRESENT CONDITIONS THAT SURROUND SOMALIA. ANY COLLAPSE THAT MIGHT BEFALL SOMALIA, MAY GOD FORBID, WILL BE THE COLLAPSE OF THE ARABS AND THE MOSLEMS..END TEXT.

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